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Message Text

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50
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01

DRC-01 /149 W
---------- 118012
R 161355Z OCT 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 2527
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1775

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB
SUBJECT: WEHNER'S PRONOUNCEMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

1. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ TOLD ME OCTOBER 15 HE HAD A LETTER OF APOLOGY FROM WEHNER, EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE PLAY GIVEN HIS REMARKS IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR, WHILE WEHNER MEANT TO PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF THE OSTPOLITIK, HE HAD NO INTENTION OF COMPLICATING THE BERLIN SITUATION OR AROUSING CONCERN IN BERLIN. ACCORDING TO SCHUETZ THIS IS UNUSUAL GESTURE FOR WEHNER WHO NEVER ADMITS A MISTAKE.

2. IN THIS SAME CONNECTION GOVERNING MAYOR SAID THAT WEHNER'S PERFORMANCE APPARENTLY CONFUSED AND EMBARRASSED THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. SCHUETZ CLAIMS THAT DURING LUNCHEON WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV ON OCTOBER 11 (SEPTEL), THE LATTER
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INDICATED SOVIETS WERE EMBARRASSED BY HAVING

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CONTROVERSY DUMPED ON THEIR DOORSTEP. MAYOR SCHUETZ SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM YEFREMOV'S REMARKS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATING A COMPROMISE ON CONSULAR REPRESENTATION ISSUE, BUT WEHNER'S INTERVENTION FORCED SOVIETS TO RECONSIDER POSITION. FOR THIS REASON, SO THE GOVERNING MAYOR SAYS, VISITNG BUNDESTAG DELEGATION WAS NOT RECEIVED BY SOME OFFICIALS AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED SINCE PLANNED DIALOGUE HAD BEEN THROWN INTO CONFUSION.

3. MAYOR REITERATED POINT HE SUGGESTED EARLIER--NAMELY THAT BRANDT, LIKE WEHNER, FEELS FOREIGN MINISTRY MISHANDLED CONSULAR REPRESENTATION ISSUE WITH PRAGUE BY TAKING TOO RIGID A POSITION. ACCORDING TO SCHUETZ, WHILE BRANDT FELT HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO GO ALONG WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ONCE THE ISSUE WAS DRAWN, HE INTENDED TO MAKE CERTAIN THIS DID NOT REPEAT NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.KLEIN

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